



**Kalispel Tribe of
Indians**
Kalispel Tribal Headquarters
Usk, WA 99180



US Forest Service
Colville National Forest
Newport – Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts
Newport, WA 99156



**WA State Dept.
Of Natural Resources**
Northeast
Colville, WA 99114

Sx^wuytn – Kaniksu Connections ‘Trail’ Project Cultural Resources and Sensitive Plants Workshop Notes Cusick Community Center

Meeting Type: Public

Date: July 18, 2019

Location: Cusick Community Center

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Facilitator: Andrew Spaeth

Present: 21 staff, team, and guests present.

Welcome

Mike Lithgow (Kalispel Tribe) – introduced himself and thanked everyone for being here.

Andrew S. (Facilitator) gave a quick update about what to expect during meeting and discussed the next public workshop which is a visit to the project area.

REMINDER: Save the Date: SEPTEMBER 25 – Project Field Trip

The project team is still working on agenda and logistics, but considering 9 am – 3 pm and looking at getting a small bus for transportation.

Kevin Lyons gave a presentation of a Kalispel Tribe story of creation. Four arrows representing four gifts were provided by the “creator”. Acceptance of the arrows meant the Kalispel people would never be hungry, would always have friends, would always have the healing gift of music. The fourth arrow represents the gift of discovery.

Sensitive and Invasive Plants

Ray Entz provided the plant presentation. He brought a few pressed plant specimens for illustration. There are 26-29 rare plant species that may occur within the project area. The Colville NF botanist, who was unable to attend the meeting, has begun surveys and will notify specialists of locations for any known plants to avoid activities in those locations. (Gayne stated that there are currently no known populations of Federally Listed threatened or endangered plant species known to occur in the area.) The Forest sensitive plant species list includes species of concern and species that are at risk.

Examples of potential plants of concern presented in the slideshow:

- Adder’s tongue fern
- Wheeler’s Bluegrass
- Prairie Cord Grass (largely absent in the valley until 1997 floods). Out competes reed canary grass.

Intent of the project related to invasive plants (noxious and non-native species) is to address existing infestations and reduce potential for new infestations by using established best management practices (BMPs). Examples include: post-harvest treatment of staging areas; cleaning vehicles prior to activities; and treating roads newly reopened for use by project activities.

The team currently has a crew out looking for sensitive and invasive species populations.

- A *request* was made for a list of the species of concern to be emailed to the mailing list. Ray said that is possible to be done.
- A *concern* was mentioned that sensitive plants and animal lists are not same for the Colville and the Panhandle NFs, although the habitats overlap and that the boundary is “arbitrary”. Example: *Botrychium manganese* is listed as sensitive on the Idaho Panhandle NF but not on the Colville.
- Another *concern* – ensure that seed mixes used for the local area do not have seeds of plants better suited to another area (example: Seed mixes for the dry side of the Colville NF are better suited for areas to the west, like the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. East side of Colville NF is wetter and should use seed mixes similar to the Idaho Panhandle NF.)
- Please explain “surveillance” plan for invasive plants?

Response: The Tribe does a systematic approach by parcel as acquired by tribe. On National Forest, the systematic approach is done on a project by project basis. Additionally, Range Management Specialists also keep their eyes open for weed species.

The primary vector for spread of weeds is people and their vehicles. Therefore roads, trails, vehicles, etc., are of great concern.

Reducing invasive species is/should be a 2-part process: get rid of the invasive plant then re-introduce native plants. We are really good at getting rid of the invasives but not so good at the re-introduction of the natives. Bare ground treatments often use primarily grass seed. Would be a great idea to also include seed from native species to improve pollinator habitat.

Cultural Resources in the Trail Project:

Kevin Lyons led the discussion about requirements and process for cultural resource analysis.

Read section 1 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It describes the purpose and who it serves. In simplified terms: the goal of the law is to find it, define it, understand it, share it. “It” refers to items of cultural/historical importance.

Goal of the evening:

1. Provide a current status of our understanding of resources type and abundance in the project area;
2. Define known data gaps; and
3. Solicit ideas of where to look and what to emphasize.

Staffing levels for comparison: KTI has 5 archaeologists, Colville Tribes have 15+ (depending on season), Colville NF has 1 or 2 plus a field crew (depending on workload and funding). The reason for the large disparity is based on the missions of the agencies.

Known archaeology sites are rare – currently in the project area there are 125 known sites that were found over 50 years. This is likely an undercount based on methodologies, ecology, etc. (e.g., crews are working in areas with up to 2 feet of duff layer). Items are rare but not randomly distributed. The number of known sites goes to zero above 2,200 feet in elevation.

Rather than “house and hide” these items of interest, the KTI, Colville NF, and DNR seek to find, understand and share the meaningful insights gathered from them. As an example, Kevin recently

found that there are records of bighorn sheep thriving in the valley, and they were systematically harvested by KTI ancestors.

- Note/Comment – Leeburg, in 1899, discussed that there was a large population of bighorn sheep in the Pend Oreille River area.

What stories do you want to hear/read/learn? That is Kevin's plea to the group.

Q – Is there evidence of fire use of native/ancestral KTI people?

Response - Look at old (1930s) forest photos and maps. They show all fire dependent species of plants. This is a wet valley. Old photos show lots of really, really big trees. YES, there is a lot of historical use of fire by the ancestral Kalispel peoples. They used it as a tool to maintain their food sources.

Q – Question about Bead Lake - Are there stories/records of ancient peoples there?

Response - Yes. There is an anecdote about a Kalispel man found "squatting" in the area by a federal biologist.

- Workshop guest's parents found mortar and pestles, etc. Kevin stated that finding heavier tools and implements that would be used in one place, rather than transported from place to place indicate longer term settlements, where people lived many seasons or even year-round.

Q - How do we recognize those plants that are of cultural significance without impinging upon sensitive cultural knowledge?

Response – The productivity and abundance of a plant combined with the accessibility of a population makes a big difference. Greater confidentiality is sought for rare and unique plants that are difficult to access.

Q – We understand the historic significance and historic uses, are there other more contemporary uses that the project leadership should be aware of?

Response - There are some new traditions and one was recently re-started. The Tribal entities may not always be able to anticipate the restart of a tradition, or how often it may recur, but we can make sure to share the information we know to help greater understanding.

Q – Do we have the units and roads set yet? This is a logging project and I am only hearing fluff.

Response - This is not just a 'logging project.' This is a restoration and improvement project. We are not at that place in the project yet. We are still in data gathering mode. What opportunities do we have? We want to hear about the values that are of concern to the people who live in the area and those who use the project area. The project team does not say that this is "logging" project. This is an improvement project. We do not have an outcome predetermined other than to improve forest health, habitat, and aquatics. This is a new process to ask for input BEFORE having proposed actions identified in a project.

Q – There are areas of huge trees. Are those types of trees going to be touched?

Response –Trees greater than 23" in diameter will not be cut. The Forest Plan restricts the cutting of trees that size or larger. These and other resource concerns are considered

when delineating a unit. The project team is interested in understanding the areas that are special to the public. Learning about areas considered special to individuals, besides having large trees, is one of the purposes of these workshops. Please feel free to stop by an office to ensure areas special to you are identified.

Q – Will the project remove aspen stands?

Response – Probably not. The Tribe is interested in developing hardwood areas.

Q - As for funding - some of these potential activities are very costly. Will this project need to generate funding from commercial activities?

Response - There are a many potential funding sources that may need to be sought. Focus of the project is to improve forest health, especially resilience to wildfire, and improve terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Logging can be used as a tool.

What are public interests for the project area?

- Protecting existing old growth and the creation of more old growth stands. Old growth provides important fire refugia.
- Would like to see the big horn sheep population expand from Sullivan Lake.
- Bring back the fisher and martin and their habitats.

Project activities will be on the Colville NF. Other landowners can use the information from this project for potential projects on their own lands.

The project webpages on the Kalispel Tribe's website and the Colville NF website have the notes and presentations from these workshops as well as schedules and other information. Let us know if you can't find what you are looking for.

- From the public: it would be nice to have historic fire map and past activity map (that were shown during the vegetation workshop) posted to the project website.

Remember the field trip is on September 25th. Plan to meet at 9 am at the Camas Center.

There will be a small bus, seating available on a first-come, first-serve basis. An outline of the trip and a map will be available for those needing to use their own transportation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Acronyms:

KTI = Kalispel Tribe of Indians

NF = National Forest

DNR = Department of Natural Resources